FLANDERS. 27

OR,

An Exact and Compendious Description of that fair, great, and fat Countrey of

FLANDERS.

Wherein the Inhabitants, Bounds, Length, Breadth, Division, Riches, Rivers, Forrests, Cities, Towns, and Villages, Castles, Principalities, Sea-ports, Courts of Justice, Abbeys, with the chief ESTATES are observed.

As also a Distinct Relation of some Battels fought, and Towns won, unto the now victorious Proceedings of the *English* and *French* Armies therein, with the taking *Mardike*, *Dunkerk*, *Winnoxbergh*, *Vuern*, and *Dixmude*, to the present besieging of *Gravelin*.

LONDON,

Printed by *Thomas Ratcliffe* on Saint *Bennets* Hill neare the Church. 1658.

To the Illuſtrious, and Renowned Peeres, the Lord RICHARD CROMWEL, Lord Chancellor of the famous Univerſity of *OXFORD.*

And

GILBERT Lord PICKERING, Lord Chamberlain to his Highnes the Lord *PROTECTOR.*

My Lords,

THE Sun affords his comfortable Raies, and Influence upon the loweſt Valleys, as the loftieſt Hills, as well to ſhrubs, as Cedars; I hope the ſame from You, who by Divine Goodneſſe are placed ſuch Glorious Lights in our Church and State.

I crave leave to Apologize, in rendring an account, for this Dedication, it is not Preſumptuous vain-glory, or Sordid flattery, or Covetous deſire of gain that procured it; but firſt, this Countrey is in ſome meaſure come into your poſſeſſion; ſecondly, the weighty Actions on foot therein, have been, and are ſteered, and guided by your prudent Heads, and victorious Armes. Thirdly, this Countrey delineated, is that, in which you have good footing, and ſtout Forces: being likely to ſhake off the Spaniſh *heavy yoke, and acknowledge Obedience to your Civil and Military Commands.*

Fourthly, 'tis tendred to your hands as the first fruits of what you will, 'tis hoped, comfortably enjoy: the first fruits have always been favourably accepted of God, and good men.

Lastly, Princes Names, and fames are transmitted to posterity by writing: Scripta manent, *and how just it is to have your grave, wise, and Religious Actings registred with eternal honour, this generation, if not utterly void of reason and conscience, cannot but acknowledge, and succeding Ages reading them, admire.*

However should men turn ingrate, yet God will not forget your labours, *but will justifie his Word, that*, such as honour him, He will honor; *and he hath spoken it, of the* righteous, *his* Name shall be exalted with honour, *and the upright shall be* had in everlasting remembrance, 1 *Sam.* 2. 30. *Psal.* 112. 6.

As God hath made this good in our eyes at present upon your persons, so I humbly pray his infinite goodnesse to continue it to your selves, and posterities, even to the perfecting of it in the sight of Men and Angels; for such honour have all his Saints, Psal. 147.

Most Illustrious Lords,

Your meanest servant

DONALD LUPTON.

FLANDERS DESCRIBED.

1. *Name.*

IT is usual with Writers of these subjects to begin with the Names of places, but where there is ambiguity and uncertainty, and no real and absolute necessity to contend about it, 'tis better to leave enquiry, and to rest satisfied with the common known name of it, as it is at present called *Flanders à Flando*; from the various winds blowing upon the coast.

2. *Countrey.*

It is one of the seventeen Provinces, which did all formerly belong to the Emperour, and were given by the Emperour of *Germany* unto the King of *Spaine*; who held them till he brought in that bloody Inquisition together with the Illegal oppressions, taxes and *Spanish* tyranny by that insolent Duke of *ALBA* General of his Forces: Some of the Provinces resolutely and unanimously joyned themselves, and stood up in Armes for their *Lives* and

and *Liberties* (for both were at ſtake to be loſt) and did by the help of the *Engliſh*, *Scots*, and *French*, defend themſelves, and gain'd upon their Enemy, and ſo caſt out the *Spaniſh* Tyrannical intended ſlavery; theſe were called the *United States*, or the *States General* of the *United Netherland Provinces*, by name, *Holland*, *Zealand*, ſtift of *Utretcht*, *Over-Iſel*, *East and weſt Friezland*, and have ſince their firſt conteſt gained a great part of *Brabant*, *Gilderland*, *Cleeveland*, with ſome places of note in this Country of *Flanders*; as the *Scluice*; the *Dam*, *Hulſt*, ſtrong places, and to the States beneficial, and advantageous to curb the *Spaniard*.

3. *Inhabitants.* The ancient Inhabitants and Natives were in *Cæſars* time called *Morini*; as from the *Mooriſh*, fenny places, and Marſhes, which were then therein; now by good Husbandry, and skill, made rich, and fat paſtures and meadows.

4. *Made a County.* The People being civiliz'd, and reduced to live under Government, this was form'd into a County diſtinct by it ſelf from others, in the yeare of our Lord, 877. by *Charles* called and ſirnamed *Le Chave* King of *France*, and then held its government from *France*.

5. *Ancient bounds of it.* It was anciently bounded by the Sea, and the Rivers *Somme* and *Scheld*, and then had theſe ſeven chief Cities, *Arras*, *Gaunt*, *Bruges*, *Ipre*, St. *Omer*, *Lile* and *Doway*, but that is now altered by marriages, and Warres; ſo that now the true bounds of *Flanders* are; firſt, *Calais* in *France* on the *Weſt*, the Sea on the *North*, and *North-Eaſt*; *Zealand* and part of *Brabant* on the *Eaſt*, and *Brabant*, and *Artois* on the *South*.

It

It is richly seated, and large in it self, as having about it for three parts, the Sea, and such rich Countreys to trade to, as *England*, *France*, *Denmark* and *Holland*, and by land all the Empire of *Germany*, and *Italy*: It containes in length thirty five or thirty six leagues, amounting to a hundred of our *English* miles; and that is from *Antwerp* to the *New Foss*, or Ditch towards *France*: In breadth it is full thirty leagues, or ninty *English* miles from the Forrest of *Ninoven* to *Graveling*. So that the *Circumference* of it is three hundred *English* miles. 6. *Length and breadth of it*

Some Countreys are holesome for *aire*, but not *rich*; others are *rich*, but not *holesome*; but *Flanders* is throughout both pleasant, and healthy for *aire*, and rich through all the parts of it, but the aire is the most pleasant further *South*, and the most rich towards *France*, and the Sea. 7. *Aire, fruitfulness of it.*

It breeds large and able Cattle, as Horses and Mares, so that 'tis grown into a proverb; to call a *tall and lusty woman*, a great *Flanders Mare*, and so for cowes; and oxen, and other cattel. 8. *Cattel.*

Flanders is divided into three parts, *viz.* that which is called *Flanders*, *Flaming-gant*, the greatest and noblest, wherein are three Capital Cities, as *Gaunt*, *Bruges*, and *Ipre*; as also the foure Sea-ports *Scluice* belonging to the States of *Holland*, *Ostend*, and *Newport* (as yet in the *Spanish* power, but may ere long be rid of their old Masters, and come into the hands of better. *Duinkirk*, *victoriously* won and *strongly* possess'd by the *English*, as the *flourishing colours* upon the Castles, Forts, and works do shew; and *Graveline*, which now lies groveling ready to starve, and 9. *Division of it into* Flanders, Flamingant, Gallicane, *and* Imperial.

and must ere long without speedy relief (which is hard to come by) yeeld to his highnesse the *Lord Protector*, it being beset at Sea with our stout Frigots, and at land by *Mardike* on the East, *Bourburgh* on the South, and *Calais* on the West.

Flanders Gallican, the Name showes it lies upon *France* Westward, *Artois* on the South, and the River *Scheld* on the East. *Flanders Imperial* is towards *Brabant*, *Flanders Gallican*, and this are the richer for Wheat, but the other for Rie, Oats, Peason, Fitches, Beans, Buck-wheat, flax and hemp, fruits and roots of all sorts.

10. *Rivers and Forrests.* The Rivers in *Flanders* are many, which bring in wealth, and are commodious for *traffique*, *fishing*, and *pleasure*, the chief of them are the *Lis*, the *Scheld*, and *Tender*; there are many Forrests, and Woods, which do not only adorne and beautifie it, but also breed infinite store of cattel and abundance of foul, as Pheasants, Patridges & the like, but they are also of singular use for building & fire, the chief are *Neip* and *Nonnen*, the Countrey hath no rocks or mountaines but is even and flat, and so the more fruitful, yet some pretty pleasant fruitful hills are intermix'd, pleasant for *hauk* and *hound*, and rather for *prospect*, then to tire the *traveller* in going over them.

11. *Cities and Townswalled* This County of *Flanders* exceeds most of her other sixteen sisters for famous, beautiful, large, populous, strong, and pleasant Cities and Towns; for there are no lesse then twenty eight walled Towns; which because they are so many and so faire ones; I will name them, (*viz.*) *Gaunt*, *Bruges*, *Ipre* the three chiefest: *Lile*, *Doway*, *Tournay*, *Courtricks*, *Oudenade*, *Aulst*, *Hulst*, *Termont*, *Bierdleit*, *Scluice*, *New-*

Newport, Dunkerk, Graveling, Dam, Burburgh, Dixmude, Vuerne, Ardenburgh, Ninove, Winoxbergh, Grammont, Cassel, Demsee, Orchier, Lannoy.

Besides these, there are thirty other great Townes, that had they Walls, they might be judged for their greatnesse to be Cities; some of them have had Walls, but through the fury of War dismantled and cast down, or else through time decayed, yet many, nay most of them have Bulwarks, and Works, and Moats, and Draw-bridges to defend them from sudden depredations, Some of them are mainly fortified, as *Ostende* and *Mardike* (which place is happily now garrison'd by his Highnesse) and hath been a pleasant seat; but what by *French* and *Spaniards* hath been reduced onely to a strong, and at present an impregnable Fort, so long as so many stout *English* hearts have it in possession; they are as followe, *Oudenburg, Messine, Belle, Poppering, Torone, Ostburgh, Axeile, Middleburgh* (there is one of the same name in *Zealand*) *Hoo, Werwick, Blanckberg, Houcke, Rosselor, Tielt, Giestle, Ecclo, Lombarzide, Steechet, Honscot, Morcherede, Meenen, Haelvein, VVastein, Steegers, Mergen, Haesbrook, Armentiers*, which the other two of *Ostende* and *Mardike* make up thirty fair, well peopled, and well traded Towns. 12. *Unwalled Towns.*

I cannot let two of the head Cities, and some of the others go or passe in silence, to wit, *Gaunt* and *Bruges*, *Dunkerk* and *Ostende*. *Gaunt* was built by *Julius Cæsar* foure leagues distant from Sea, It is seated upon three Rivers, the *Scheld* which runs by *Antwerp*, the *Lis*, and *Liette*, which make within the City twenty six Iles, and fourscore and ten 13. *Gaunt & Bruges briefly described.*

great Bridges, under and through which goes ſmall ſhips and Veſſels with all ſort of wares, beſides many ſmaller ones pleaſant and profitable, It is ſtrong by *nature* and *art*, fortified by a ſtrong and a large *Cittadel*, *Gallant* in buildings, ſtately, high and uniforme, the wall more then ſixteen Engliſh miles about; there be ſix principal water-mills; one hundred and thirty Windmils upon the walls; fifty eight publick Churches, foure Orders of *Friers*, twenty ſix *Schools* of literature, fifty two *Companies* of Trades, and twenty ſeven *Orders* and degrees of Weavers, of *Gold* and *Silver*, *Silks*, *Linnin*, *Wollen*, *Tapiſtry*, *Sarges*, *Fuſtions*, *Worſteds*, *Buckroms*, and all other ſorts of *Stuffs*; this City is famous for the birth of the Emperour *Charles* the fifth, and that valiant Prince-like *John* of *Gaunt*.

14. *Bruges.* *Bruges* is little inferiour, for 'tis a ſtately Towne and ancient, ſtrong and healthy, the Wall is five *Italian* miles in compaſſe, hath many *Schools*, in it are threeſcore and ſix Churches well built and beautified, the chief of them is dedicated to *Donatus*: here are ſixty eight free *Companies*, beſides abundance of *Cloiſters*, *Nunneries* and *Priories*; the City for health and pleaſure is frequented by great perſons of *Nobles* and *Gentry*, it is well ſtored for all ſorts of proviſion and at cheap rates, its full of pleaſant Gardens, Orchards and walks, you may gueſs of the reſt by theſe two, famous in *building*, *riches*, *commerce and pleaſure*.

15. *Villages in Flanders.* I will refer the ſtory of *Dunkerk* toward the end of this Treatiſe, and ſo I ſhew you the gallantneſſe of this County for the great number of *rich* and

and *pleaſant* Pariſhes and Villages that are in it, being one thouſand one hundred fifty foure, wealthy and great as any in *Europe*, beſides the great number of *Caſtles*, *Fortreſſes*, *Seigniories*, Noble and Gentlemens *Houſes* beautiful and large, and rich, and to augment the ſplendor of this County there are fourty eight faire *Abbies*, beſides *Nunneries* a vaſt number of *Priories*, *Canonical Colledges*, and *Monaſteries*, ſo that the *Spaniards*, when they came firſt into *Flanders* and beheld the variety of buildings and multitude of Pariſhes (notwithſtanding it hath been ſo harraſſed by Warres for theſe ſixty yeares) ſaid that all *Flanders* was but one entire *City* of *pleaſure* and *profit*: and who knows not that old true ſaying that *France* is the great and mightieſt *Kingdome* of all *Europe*, *Milan* the mightieſt *Dukedome*, and *Flanders* the mightieſt and greateſt *Countie*.

16. *Caſtles.*

17. *Caſtles, Abbeys.*

Next obſerve that in this Countrey there are five ancient *Vicounties*, *viz.* of *Gaunt*, *Ipre*, *Vuerne*, *Winnoxbergh*, *and Haerbleck*. The States of *Flanders* conſiſt of foure members, *Nobles*, *Prelates*, *Townes*, *Caſtleneues*, or Commanders of Caſtles and Towns, here are in *Flanders* thirty one *Courts* of Juſtice or Bayliwicks, four great *Baronies* which all give the *Bear* for their Arms, but diſtinguiſhed by the fields, *viz.* *Pamele*, *Ciſon*, *Heine*, *Boulaer*; there are eighteen *Baronies* of latter erection, yet of great Command: here are alſo twelve *Peeres* in this County in imitation of *France*: here alſo are three *Principalities* of *Steinhauſe*, *Gauree*, and *Eſpinoy*.

18. *Dignities & Government and Officers of State.*

19. *Principalities.*

20. *Officers peculiar to the Earle of Flanders.*

I will not omit to name the Earle of *Flanders* chief Officers, such as follow him and are of his Court, and have *Lordships* and Seigniories of inheritance in *Flanders* annexed to their office, these are, first, a great *Constable*, two *Marshals* for Justice, a *Master* of his horse, *chief Master* of his Game, a *Chancellor*, a *Chamberlaine*: foure *Receivers* of his Revenues, a chief *Steward*, besides abundance of inferiour Officers and Ministers under these: he also hath a set number of *Chaplains*, three *Secretaries*, one for the *Church*-affaires, one for *State*-affaires, and one for his own special occasions, the *Earles* Revenues and estate in times of peace were wondrous large, from his *Churches* and *Religious* persons, from his own Hereditary *Lands*, and from his *customs* upon all Commodities by sea and land, computed to amount to the summe of two millions of *Rix dollers* or Crownes by the yeare in our moneys according to pound sterling, after this rate they come to five hundred thousand pound *per ann.*

21. *The Earles Revenues.*

22. *Ostende.*

I promised ere I concluded to set down the State of *Dunkirk* and *Ostend*, both of them have been subject to the fury of *Warre*, and change of *Lords* and *Laws*: for *Ostend* 'twas a fishing Town, and lived by what they got at Sea, as well by *labour* as by *Pyracy*; for they used both as well against us *English*, as against the *Hollanders*, who once were Masters of it, and did by the valour of *English* Commanders, especially Sir *Francis Vere*, and *Horatio* afterwards Lord *Vere* his valiant brother, and Sir *John Ogle* with other hardy Commanders hold out a tedious siege of three years, three moneths, and odde dayes against all the *Spanish* power and strength,

ſtrength, who ſpared neither men nor bullets, to get it into his hands; which at laſt (when it was not a Town, but an heap of battered Rubbiſh) by the fury of his *Cannon* and *Granadoes*) when it had coſt him almoſt a *million* of men and *millions* of moneys was honourably yeelded into his hands; to the never dying fame and honour of our Commanders and ſouldiers, and ſo the *Spaniard* hath kept, and builded it anew, ſo that at preſent it is a neat prety new town, but ſtrongly fortified, and hath done a world of miſchief to our *Merchants*, *Fiſher-men*, and *Colliers*, and would have been a ſore neſt of *Pirates* had they not been valiantly kept priſoners within by our ſtately Men of *War*, who have barr'd up this neſt of *pickeroons* with good Cannon, and ſtout Seamen; and who will (I hope) ere long rouſt them out of this Hole, and make them look out another kennel; and reduce *Oſtend* as *Dunkerk* is, to the obedience of his *Highneſſe*, to the benefit of all *Merchants* and honor of our *Nation*.

23. *Dunkerk.*

And now we are almoſt come to a period, onely this Place muſt not be omitted. It hath the name from the Church *Duin-kerk*, in Dutch ſignifying a Church in or neer the *Downes*, or to be ſeen in the *Downes* as a mark at Sea: there is a convenient *Harbour* for ſhipping, and a ſtrong *Caſtle*, the Town indifferent large, well built, too good for ſuch *vermin* as are now caſt out of it, ſtrong it is, and well Bulwark'd toward *ſea* and *land*; 'tis commodiouſly ſeated for pleaſure and profit, the great *Church* is faire in building, and will be fairer when as *Popiſh ſuperſtition* is removed, and the *Goſpel* preached

preached in its with *vigour*, *zeal*, and *purity* which is already begun; the Townſmen may praiſe God for ſo happy a *change*, it hath been ſubject to many alterations; I will onely name ſome for brevities ſake, it was *ſacked*, *pillaged*, and *burned*, *Anno*. 1558. by Monſier *Termes*. It was beſieged and won from the *Spaniard* by the *French*, Anno 1655. Again, the peace being not broke betwixt *England* and *Spaine* it was regained by the *Spaniard* (but he was beholden then to us for it) and now this preſent yeare after a ſhort ſiege, though hot for the time; it was at firſt yeelded into the hands of his Majeſty of *France*, who preſently redelivered it into the *Lord Lockarts* poſſeſſion for his Highneſſe, who now is ſole owner of it and *Mardike* her ſtrong neighbour; both turned from *Spaniſh* and *French* faſhion into *Engliſh*: So that at preſent *Flanders* is under the Government of two *free States*, to wit, *England* and *Holland*, and under two Kings, of *France* and *Spain*.

24. *Battels in Flanders.* This Countrey hath been the ſeat of Warre for ſixty years and upwards, ſometimes by the *Dutch* and *Spaniards*, who worryed one another in this Countrey in ſeveral ſieges, as that of *Scluis*, and that at *Dam*, and two voyages to *Hulſt*; the firſt time the Prince of *Orange* was glad to come off with ſome loſs, but the ſecond time entring with a ſtrong Army took that Town of *Hulſt*, and the *States* of the Low-Countreys do keep it garriſoned at this preſent, it is not far diſtant from ſea.

It hath alſo been the thorough-fair for the *French* and *Spaniſh* armies to range and rove in, to the extream haraſſing and impoveriſhing the husbandman and trades.

The

The most famous battel that hath been fought in this Countrey was that of *Neinport*; great were the Armies as well that of the States, as that of the Arch-Duke *Albertus*, and almost for number equal, the advantages of winde, or Sun, or ground little or none; the *States* had a sad *morning*, and the Arch-Duke a fatal *evening*, for the *Spaniards* cut off twelve hundred stout and hardy *Scots* at a narrow passage, (a great losse for the quality of the souldiers, or *number* at that pinch of time, for they were (with the *English*) the *flower* of the *States Army*, the *Spaniards* followed their game so furiously, that *Prince Maurice* left the field, all the *Dutch* ran a shipboard, that valiant and wise Sir *Francis Vere* was shot in the morning, which wound rendred him unable for Command that day, but he committed it to his brother a prosperous, and religious Leader; who managed it so, that when the *Spaniard* had gained so much ground that they possessed the Cannon, and cryed out *Sancta Maria, Victoria, victoria*, and all was given for lost, yet the *English* Regiments (who only *kept* and *wonne* the field) did so poure their bullets amongst the enemies, that they presently regain'd the Ordnance, and charg'd them presently with small shot, and discharg'd them so successfully, that the *Spaniards* were forc'd to leave the field in disorder; that night, and their heels was their shelter. But the *English* pursuing their victory slew and cut down all they overtook straggling, so that the day was gained by the *English*, who did not onely gain that field then, but from time to time have upheld the Low-countreys; who in truth had been totally ruin'd by the *Spaniard*, without

Newport Battel.

out our help, this famous battel was fought with at leaſt fourty five thouſand men on both ſides.

And now at preſent this County of *Flanders* is the Seat of Warre, wherein *England* and *France* are tugging againſt *Spain*, and hitherto have performed admirable ſervice, as the taking of *Bourburgh* and *Mardike*, the ſurrender of *Dunkerk* into our hands, that Town ſo infamous for Piracies; the great overthrow given to the *Spaniards* ſtriving to relieve it, with a great number of field Officers and others, made priſoners, the ſpeedy gaining of *Winnoxberg*, *Vuern*, *Dixmude*, Towns that have all of them titles added to their names; as *Dunkerk* for trade, *Winnoxbergh* for a gallant Market, *Vuern* for pleaſure, and *Dixmude* for excellent butter.

And at this Inſtant that ſtrong ſeated, deep moated and treble-walled Town of *Graveling* is beſieged, *Newport* and *Oſtend* kept cloſe In, which when gain'd will cauſe the *Spaniard* to ſhrug and ſhrink in his bombaſted titles and Bravadoes; and be a juſt cauſe of *Englands* triumph, and rejoycing over the proud *Spaniard*.

FINIS.

320865